



NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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2002 FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES

LINCOLN, Neb., July 23, 2003--Farm production expenditures for the Northern Plains Region totaled \$24.5 billion in 2002, down 4.6 percent from a year earlier, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. The Northern Plains Region includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. Livestock, poultry, and related expenses, the largest expenditure category in the Region, decreased 5.4 percent. Fertilizer, lime, and soil conditioner expenditures had one of the largest percentage drops, down 7.4 percent from last year. The seeds and plants expenditure was the only category that increased, up 3.7 percent.

Livestock, poultry, and related expenses accounted for 18.6 percent of the Northern Plains total production expenses, while rent accounted for 12.1, farm services 11.5, and feed 8.8 percent.

The total expenditures per farm in the Northern Plains averaged \$137,746 in 2002, down from \$143,400 a year ago. The livestock, poultry, and related expenses category was the leading 2002 expenditure, at \$25,634 per farm, over 3 times the national average. The average rent per farm at \$16,620 was over twice the national average. Farm services, at \$15,887, and feed, at \$12,169, were 28 and 7 percent, respectively, above the national average for these categories.

Nationally, farm production expenses decreased 1.9 percent from 2001. Fertilizer, lime, and soil conditioners decreased 7.8 percent, which was also the largest relative drop. The only expenditure categories at the national level that increased were farm improvements and construction, up 2.6 percent, and seeds and plants, up 2.4 percent. The National average for total expenditures was \$88,932 per farm compared to \$90,711 in 2001.

This report is based on results from the Agricultural Resource Management Study (ARMS) conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Producers were contacted in February through April 2003 to collect farm and ranch production and expense data.

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